

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., April 15, 1910.

THE STEADY SUBSCRIBER.

How dear to my heart is the steady subscriber, Who pays in advance without skipping a year...

BE SQUARE.

We may name a hundred drawbacks That a man must meet in life, We may say it's all a "battle"...

AN ALASKAN TRIP.

What a Bellefonte Girl Saw on a Trip to the Far North, and How She Enjoyed the Many Interesting Sites and Experiences.

When Zoe and I planned to enjoy our summer vacation by a trip to the A. Y. P. Exposition at Seattle, we decided that the proximity of Washington to Alaska...

What cleverness is manifested by the steamship companies in having boats sail in the evening! For the crowded wharves, laughing, happy people, joyous farewells, and general air of accomplishing things, lend to a passenger's delusion...

But when the morning of the second day came, the truth of a line from one of Spring's popular plays rose again, "All last night was fun and laughter, but this is the cold gray dawn of the morning after."

We two managed to get dressed and on deck, but that day held no pleasure for us, and we sat around chewing dried beef and soda crackers when meal time came...

And that morning dawned with our boat at the dock in San Francisco, where we were to be for hours. We went up Market street and all around the business part of the city, marveling at the changes...

We left Seattle on the "Jefferson," at nine o'clock p. m., July 14th. We had chosen this boat on the advice of friends, in preference to the boats confining their passenger lists to round trip excursions...

Now many of the people were disappointed not to find themselves in Alaska the next day, but you know there are one hundred miles of water to be traversed from Seattle before Puget Sound is left behind...

it was noticeable that later, even when there was so much to see that one's eyes were worn out, they preferred a game of bridge to going ashore in the dampness...

Another surprise to us in addition to these rains was the temperature. We had experienced the cold mountain nights of Yosemite, but all day long in Alaska one could wear a woolen suit, a sweater, and an overcoat...

Well, for two days we sailed and sailed, and now the long days became noticeable. For these first two days it seemed that everyone ate as if he expected never to eat again...

The voyage seemed just like an exquisite river trip, for the water was smooth, the passage not very wide, and on both sides were pine-clad hills, and silvery cascades...

The first stop was at Ketchikan, "the first city in Alaska" according to its postcards, a misnomer as far as historical priority is concerned...

Beside the salmon canneries, copper and timber industries belong to this progressive town. Here too we saw the first totem poles at close range...

By this time everyone had learned to make a dash for the curios stores and Indian basket-makers, and there was always great amusement on board, after leaving each port, in examining every half-hour during the day...

It chanced that while at Stanford I had a thesis on Indian Education and I had learned much of this unique life about William Duncan's, so I was wildly disappointed over the rain, and I was standing on the deck wondering if it wouldn't clear enough for me to make a dash for the Church...

My log-book I notice that the next stop of that day was at Port Wrangell at six in the evening. The captain came and asked us to let him show us the town, which he took turns with the young women on the boat...

From Juneau we passed by Mendenhall and Davidson Glaciers. The face of the latter is about three miles from the water's edge and therefore classes under the "dead" glaciers...

Haines Mission and Ft. Seward were reached in the evening, but we hadn't gone to Alaska to see soldiers, and this Sunday left us ready for the much discussed trip of the morrow...

When we docked at Skagway, every one made a rush for the train of the White Pass and Yukon Route. Those who sought the open observation cars were soon driven into the closed cars by the penetrating cold.

mountainside" was, outside of a book, sent me into a delirium of delight. On this morning, the captain got within a quarter of a mile from the foot of the glacier, as close as he ever goes...

One of the Sitka men aboard told us that only one-tenth of one per cent, succeeded in gaining gold. For any knowledge of the perils attending the gold-seekers, this trip was all sufficient, and the photographs I saw of men threading Chilcoat pass, like a black line of ants on the white snow, only enhanced the horror...

The descent to Skagway was made rapidly. In this town we saw our first dog team. On the whole trip we had noticed but three horses.

Skagway is a stopping point for people going into the interior to Dawson. Fairbanks and other places, and since it lacked the raison d'etre that other towns had, having sprung into life during the Klondike rush '98, it is more of a cosmopolitan town than the rest...

Out of Taku Inlet, we went up Castineux Channel to Douglas, on Douglas Island, where we spent the morning at the Treadwell gold mines...

The Indian River Park had some unusual features. This place seemed over all the drapery of the oil-painting. An artist who spoke to us in the church thinks this Raphael, but they have no idea how it came into Russian possession in this spot of the earth...

The saying regarding the Indian River is "He who drinks of the waters of Sitka must return." This place seemed to me much like Monterey, in its odd comingling of sleepy old traditions with modern activities...

Ninety islands form numerous channels in front of the town, and beyond the bay, on Kruszoff Island, is Mount Edgcombe, a picturesque, extinct volcano, shaped very much like Fujiyama, with the snowy top.

To me Sitka constitutes in a way the close of the Alaskan impressions, for thereafter the voyage was a continuation of what we had before seen, a second trip to Taku, and on this day there were no breaking icebergs, but only dead silence...

Of the ship, its officers, (especially the Norwegian captain, German first mate, English second mate) and passengers, the ship's amusements, etc., much remains untold, but that's another story, and I've stored it all away in memories which I trust may never be dimmed.

MARY MACBRIDE BARTRUFF.

The British flag is the only one on which the sun never sets, but the American flag is a close second. It has been proved by calculations made by the United States Naval Observatory...

When we went up over the rocky road-bed above the roaring river and kept our eyes on "White Pass" trail on the other side, we realized much of the pioneer spirit that led over 20,000 men on foot up that dangerous pass in "a mad endeavor to be the first to put pick into the ground covering the greatest deposit of virgin gold in the history of the world."

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sea, 21 miles from Skagway, and had accomplished in three hours what in those times took six days. After hearing from several Alaskans tales of the hardships of these early days, one could not look on that pass without imagining the whole scene.

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WHAT TO TALK.

Talk Happiness. The world is sad enough Without your woes. No path is wholly rough. Look for the places that are smooth and clear...

Talk Faith: the world is better off without Your utter ignorance, and your morbid doubt. If you have faith in God, or man, or self, Say so—if not, put back upon the shelf...

Talk Health. The dreary, never-ending talk Of mortal maladies is worn and stale. Your charm, or interest, or pleasure, By harping on that minor chord, disease, Say you are well, or all is well with you...

Spotless Town.

Delf recalls a doll's house. There is evidence of eternal scrubbing everywhere. The water in the marble basin at the bath suddenly giving out, we were informed that Saturday was wash day...

Archangelisy, of Sitka, whose name we learned to roll trippingly on our tongues, told us much of interest about things of this nature, and when we reached Sitka at seven on the morning following, he gave the day to his ship's friends...

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Passing of the Seminoles.

Report comes from Florida that the last survivors of the Seminole tribe, headed by Chief Tiger Tail, will soon remove to Oklahoma, going upon the Seminoles reservation in that State and abandoning the Everglades, where they were born and where their fathers fought so well...

Tiger Tail's band of Seminoles leads the most comfortable, care-free life imaginable. Right there in Florida, close to the winter resort and the hum of civilized existence, they carry on their hunting and their forest roving exactly as they did 100 years ago!

The number of Tiger Tail's people has never been known. According to the Federal Indian in the cool and comfortable Indian in Florida, but Government agents estimate the number at 575. Floridians think about 400 Seminoles live in the swamps, the number increasing but little, certainly not diminishing...

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Common sense would dictate that the Seminoles stay where they are. They are in the nick of time, in fact, and can be made valuable in the exaration and settling of Southern Florida, while their honesty, good nature and wonderful knowledge of the swamps and jungles ought to make them indispensable.

Roast Beef on the Hoof.

Western beef is coming into its own. Not over a decade ago eastern buyers purchased range-bred steers only when they were unable to fill their feed-pens from other sources, and usually offered a much lower price for this class of stock than they were willing to pay for that secured from other places.

Experience has taught these buyers, however, that western range-bred steers are usually in the very best of health. They have splendid frame upon which to build, are well muscled and boned, and, being accustomed to the rigors of the western climate, continue to put on flesh in the eastern feed-pens when cattle from the other sections, being fed under identical conditions, are losing flesh on account of the inclement weather conditions.

These steers shed early under favorable conditions, and when they have reached the stockyards they show an exterior finish that other cattle, lacking the same health and ruggedness, fail to show. This makes the western steers ready sellers on the market, and after they have been butchered the percentage of the weight of the dressed carcass, over that of other steers under the same conditions, is so perceptible as to immediately attract the attention of those keen, far-sighted men who handle the yard end of the business.

The settlement of the west is rapidly reducing the amount of available range, and is forcing the cattle to go higher and higher into the hills in search of forage. This is greatly increasing the importance of freely utilizing the ranges within the national forests, and every endeavor is being made by the forest service to open hitherto inaccessible ranges by the construction of trails and bridges, and unusual ranges by the development of water. In these higher elevations the grass is usually much finer in quality and more nutritious, while the climate is much more rigorous; both of which conditions result in the animals being in better health, and having more solid flesh when placed on the feeder markets in the fall.

—When serving cocoa or chocolate drop a marshmallow into each cup before pouring in the hot beverage. They will come to the top soft and creamy and are a fine substitute for whipped cream.

—If a human being continued to grow at the same rate as he does in his first year he would be 68 feet tall at the age of 10.

—They who go out to hit the high places land on the dump.

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